

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061565

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNSC, RH

SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON RHODESIA

1. ONE OF THE KEY ISSUES IN THE UNFOLDING UNSC RHODESIA DEBATE IS WHETHER BISHOP MUZOREWA WILL BE ALLOWED TO ADDRESS THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS. THE COUNCIL HAS INVITED NKOMO AND MUGABE TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. THE AFRICAN GROUP AT THE UN HAD EARLIER MADE A DECISION NOT TO OPPOSE HAVING THE COUNCIL HEAR MUZOREWA SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. HOWEVER, AFTER IT BECAME CLEAR THAT RHODESIA PLANNED TO USE CENSORSHIP POWERS TO KEEP NKOMO AND MUGABE'S COMMENTS OUT OF THE RHODESIAN MEDIA, THE AFRICA GROUP WITHDREW ITS DECISION AND IS NOW SPLIT. WE EXPECT A FIGHT TO DEVELOP OVER
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WHETHER MUZOREWA SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO SPEAK.

2. THE US, THE UK, AND THE OTHER WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL STRONGLY SUPPORT MUZOREWA'S RIGHT TO SPEAK. THIS IS NO SENSE REFLECTS OUR VIEW OF THE POSITION MUZOREWA TAKES. WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS AND FIND THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT INADEQUATE.

HOWEVER, THE SPECTACLE OF THE COUNCIL REFUSING
TO HEAR MUZOREWA'S SIDE OF THE STORY WOULD BE DAMAGING TO

THE UN AND COULD PROVIDE SMITH WITH A PROPAGANDA VICTORY
IN THE EYES OF WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION.

3. THE BRITISH HAVE INSTRUCTED SOME OF THEIR EMBASSIES
IN CAPITALS OF COUNTRIES REPRESENTED ON THE SECURITY
COUNCIL TO APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS ON THIS ISSUE. YOU
SHOULD CHECK WITH YOUR BRITISH COLLEAGUE AND MAKE A
DEMARCHE JOINTLY WITH HIM, OR ALONE IF HE IS NOT INSTRUCTED
OR HAS ALREADY MADE SUCH AN APPROACH. YOU SHOULD ASK
HOST GOVERNMENT TO INSTRUCT THEIR DELEGATION IN NEW YORK
TO SUPPORT OUR POSITION IF THEY AGREE WITH OUR LINE OF
REASONING. SINCE DECISION ON MUZOREWA MAY BE TAKEN AS
EARLY AS MARCH 10, YOU SHOULD MAKE DEMARCHE ASAP. VANCE

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